

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 RSC-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AORG, AFIN, UN, XF

SUBJECT: ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE

REF: STATE 197420

1. MISOFF DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH EGYPTIAN REP ON FIFTH COMITE (OSMAN) SUBJECT OF ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE. OSMAN STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT "ARABS WOULD FOR FULL COST" OF ADDITION OF ARABIC TO LIST OF LANGUAGES USED IN UN. MISOFF VERY INFORMALLY FLOATED AS OWN IDEA, PROPOSAL SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 REFTL, ARGUING THAT IT WAS UNJUST THAT ONLY ARAB STATES WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR LANGUAGE COSTS AND ALL MEMBER STATES SHOULD PAY FOR LANGUAGE SERVICES THAT THEY REQUIRED. OSMAN APPEARED INTERESTED BY SUGGESTION AND EVEN APPRECIATIVE OF FORTHCOMING NATURE OF PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, HE IMMEDIATELY CITED PRINCIPAL PROBLEM TO THIS SUGGESTION, I.E., CHINESE AND SOVIETES WOULD END UP WITH HEAVY BURDEN IN PAYING FOR USE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LANGUAGES IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER DELS IN MUCH MORE FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. MISOFF POINTED OUT TO OSMAN THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT SIMILAR INITIATIVE ON ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES FROM GERMANS AND, AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE, FROM JAPANESE. COST OF ALL THESE SERVICES WOULD BECOME EXTREMELY BURDENSOME TO UN,
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AND PROBABLY ONLY SOLUTION WOULD BE AN EQUITABLE SHARING OF SUCH

COSTS, SUCH AS INDEED WAS SUGGESTION OF ARAB STATES IN THEIR CURRENT INITIATIVE.

2. OSMAN PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ARAB INITIATIVE AS SITUATION EVOLVES AND SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD MAKE SOME SOUNDINGS ON IDEA PRESENTED PARA 3 143*53).
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